104-10189-10194

JFK ACT RELEASE

People Outnumber Seats for Shaw Trial--Sheriff

Press Spots Number 100; Requests, 300

Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. said that he is having trouble finding seats for people who want to attend the Jan. 21 trial of Clay Shaw.

"For instance," said Heyd in an interview, "we have set aside about 100 seats for the news media. I don't know the exact number of press requests we have had, but it's near 300."

Heyd said "about 30 to 35 deputies will be assigned to the case" to aid in security measures.

According to Heyd, closed circuit television into his office has been set up, giving him a look into the courtroom and the hallways. "I'll have some extra men in our office to cover any type of crowd scene or any difficulty that may arise," he said.

Heyd said the Criminal Courts Building will be guarded around the clock. "We are going to provide asmuch security as possible in this complex area," he explained.

Asked if the closed circuit television of the courtroom couldn't somehow be used by the overflow of reporters, Heyd answered, "It would have to be okayed by Judge (Edward A.) Haggerty. My impression is it is strictly a security measure and not a gain for the news media. Actually with 100 seats set aside, we should be able to take care of most of the news media with one seat and then, of course, they'll have to work a pool system."

Heyd said all members of the news media who expect to attend sessions of the trial should confirm their seating with his office prior to Jan. 21.

"Those who were issued permanent - type indentification badges in September and have no changes to make may check in by telephone," said Heyd. "All other persons will be required to report to the Sheriff's office on Jan. 16, 17 or 20 to have identification processed.

"Press representatives who have badges but who have changed agency affiliation since September will also be required to report to the office to have their credentials updated."

Heyd said due to shortage of space in the courtroom, there will be a press pool to cover the phase of the trial involving selection of a jury. He said as soon as a probable starting date for the trial itself can be ascertained, his office will arrange for two additional days of identification processing.

Telephone confirmation may be made to his assistant, Mrs. Nina Suber, at 822-8000, said Heyd. Processing will be done in the Sheriff's office, 2700 Tulane ave., from 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Jaan. 16, 17 and 20.

Shaw is charged with allegedly conspiring to assassinate the late President John F. Kennedy in 1963. President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas, Tex. Nov. 22, 1963.

SHAW MOTIONS WILL BE HEARD

By

Thursday, 1967

Change of Venue Voiding of Charge, Topics

A Criminal District Court hearing will be conducted Friday on one motion for a change of venue in the trial of Clay L. Shaw and on another seeking to have the conspiracy charge against Shaw thrown out of court.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. set the hearing for 10 a.m. after granting a third motion that will permit Shaw to remain free on his current $10,000 bond during his trial, which has been scheduled for Jan. 21.

Shaw is accused of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to kill President John F. Kennedy. The district attorney's office booked him on that charge on March 1, 1967, and he was later indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

Judge Haggerty gave an outline of court sessions for the trial.

Court will be in session from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays.

He ruled out night sessions as too taxing. The jury will be lodged at a nearby hotel. Women jurors, if any, will be accompanied by a police matron.

A lengthy trial is expected. DA Jim Garrison estimates it will take about five weeks.

"I'll hold court on Mardi Gras (Feb. 18) if necessary, and it looks like it will be necessary," Judge Haggerty said.

In his attack on Shaw's con

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 2, Col. 1

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Continued from Page 1

spiracy indictment, attorney F. Irvin Dymond attacked the state conspiracy statute itself on several grounds.

ATTACKS STATE LAW

It denies freedom of speech to the defendant he charged, it violates the due process clauses of the state and federal constitutions, and violates the right of the accused to be informed of the accusation against him.

He also attacked the state law embodying the "nine of 12 rule," which holds that only nine of 12 jurors need vote guilty to produce a guilty verdict.

Dymond argued that a guilty verdict must be unanimous.

The motion for a change of venue was the fourth filed since Shaw's case has been before the court. The other three were overruled by Judge Haggerty.

The latest motion said the actions of Garrison and/or his assistants "are designed to prejudice and the rights of the defendant and his ability to secure a fair trial in an atmosphere free of prejudice, passion, bias and political tyranny," the latest motion says in part.

Such actions constitute an "extra-judicial attempt" to persuade prospective jurors that Garrison's theories about the assassination are correct, and that there was a conspiracy, the defense alleged.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Cited were a one-hour press conference by Garrison on Dec. 11, a television show in which Asst. DA James L. Alcock appeared on Dec. 8, and a TV interview with Alcock on Dec. 31.

ALCOCK QUOTE

The following quote, in which Alcock supposedly discussed Shaw, was cited by the motion:

"We can and will try him without the autopsy report and X-rays." (Garrison sought original records of the autopsy and X-rays of President Kennedy's body as evidence.)

Alcock was further quoted:

"We feel that this (the autopsy report) is vital evidence and the jury is entitled to see it and to have experts tell them what is reflected by these reports.

"We feel sure they will show that President Kennedy was shot from at least two directions and especially from the front, which is in the area of the grassy knoll."

Many critics of the Warren Commission contend that shots were fired from the grassy knoll, on Kennedy's right, instead of or in addition to the shots the commission said were fired by Oswald from the book depository to Kennedy's rear.

Dymond asked for an immediate hearing that would cause no further delay in the trial. Alcock said he would have his answers by Thursday.

ADDITIONAL BENCHES

Judge Haggerty said additional benches will be placed in his courtroom for the trial. This will increase the seating capacity to 172.

A pool of 25 newsmen will be admitted during jury selection, when most seats will be occupied by potential jurors.

Later, 100 newsmen will be admitted.

for a panel of 250 jurors and will call on persons from panels of other sections of court if the original 250 is used up before 12 jurors are picked.

Bribe Story Lie, Leemans Quoted

The district attorney's office Monday released a statement attributed to a Slidell man who claimed he lied about being bribed by the DA's office in connection with a statement about Clay L. Shaw in 1967.

In the summer of that year Fred H. Leemans Sr. appeared on a National Broadcasting Co. documentary about DA Jim Garrison's probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Leemans claimed that a member of Garrison's staff at that time, Robert E. Lee, offered him $2,500 for testimony to the effect that Shaw used a Turkish bath run by Leemans, using the name Clay Bertrand.

Garrison has claimed that Shaw used the alias Clay Bertrand.

However, in the statement released Monday, Leemans is quoted as saying that he lied on the NBC program.

"I now state freely and voluntarily and without any promises of reward or immunity that the statements I made on the NBC program relative to Garrison's office offering me a bribe for testimony favorable to their case was a lie," the statement said.

The statement said Leemans wanted to clear Lee and Garrison's office from "the false accusations that I had made."

On the television show Leemans also claimed that Garrison's office tried to get him to identify a young man who allegedly accompanied Shaw to the baths as Lee Harvey Oswald.

Part of the reason he participated in the show was threatening phone calls "relative to the information that I had given Mr. Garrison," Leemans is supposed to have said.

Leemans also described a visit from a man with a badge who stated that he was a government agent.

The man supposedly told Leemans that the government was checking bar owners in the Slidell area for possible income tax violations.

The man also warned him that "it was not smart" to be involved in the Clay Shaw case, "because a lot of people that had been involved got hurt."

An anonymous caller told Leemans to change his statement and claim he had been bribed, Leemans' statement said.

The caller also suggested that Leemans contact Irvin Dymond, one of Shaw's attorneys, Leemans said.

After contacting Dymond, Leemans said, he was introduced to Walter Sheridan, investigative reporter for NBC.

Leemans claims Dymond offered him an attorney and bond in the event he were charged with giving false information to the DA's office.

Leemans said his appearance on the show was taped in the office of Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, in the pres-

Times - Picayune

TUESDAY [illegible] NEW ORLEANS

'Lied About DA' --Shaw Case Figure Quoted

The district attorney's office has released an affidavit attributed to a Slidell man in which he claims he was lying when he said on a national television broadcast that he had been bribed by the district attorney's office.

The man, Fred H. Leemans Sr., appeared on the National Broadcasting Co. telecast "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison" in June, 1967.

ACCORDING TO the affidavit, Leemans claims he lied when he told viewers that "a member of Jim Garrison's staff, one Robert E. Lee, had offered me $2,500 for testimony to the effect that Clay Shaw used my turkish bath and that on those occasions he used the name Clay Bertrand.

"I further related how Mr. Garrison's office attempted to get me to identify a young white male, who accompanied Shaw to the baths, as Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I NOW STATE freely and voluntarily and without any promises of reward of immunity that the statements I made on the NBC program relative to Garrison's office offering me a bribe for testimony favorable to their case was a lie."

The affidavit says Leemans' motive for saying he lied is "to clear the name of Robert E. Lee, former assistant district attorney, and the office of Jim Garrison from the false accusations that I made."

The statement gives several reasons why Leeman's allegedly lied on NBC.

IT CLAIMS Leeman's received numerous anonymous threatening phone calls about information he had given Garrison, warning him to change his statement and say that he was bribed by Garrison.

The affidavit also says Leemans was visited by a man with a badge who said he was a government agent. The man allegedly warned Leemans not to get involved in the Clay Shaw case and said "that a lot of people that had been got hurt . . ."

ONE ANONYMOUS caller suggested Leemans contact Shaw's attorney, Irvin F. Dymond, the affidavit says. After consulting with Dymond, Leemans was introduced to Walter Sheridan, investigative reporter for NBC, who suggested that Leemans appear on the show he was preparing.

"My actual appearance on the show was taped in the office of Aaron Kohn, managing director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission, in the presence of Walter Sheridan and Irvin Dymond," Leemans concludes his affidavit.

D.A. TO SUBPENA KENNEDY X-RAYS

New Procedure Set for Garrison Probe

Upon request by Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, a private attorney in Washington, D.C., is expected to file a subpena early next week for the appearance here of Dr. James B. Rhoads, archivist of the United States.

To be filed in the Court of General Sessions, the subpena will ask Rhoads to appear and bring with him all of the X-ray and photographic records connected with the autopsy conducted on the body of President John F. Kennedy after he was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The move was a new legal procedure by Garrison to obtain the X-rays and photographs of the autopsy for use in the January trial of Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman accused by Garrison of conspiring to kill President Kennedy.

In a previous attempt, Garrison had asked for the appearance of a United States attorney in New Orleans to provide the records, but this request was turned down.

The district attorney and other critics of the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination contend there is some doubt about the number of bullets fired at Kennedy. The X-rays and photographs bear on the controversy.

Garrison to Aid Slaying Probes

Appointed to Board of National Committee

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison has been named to the board of directors of a National Committee to Investigate Assassinations, the formation of which was announced Thursday in Washington.

Garrison, who has been conducting his own probe into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy for almost two years, will be among other board directors who include many critics of the Warren Commission's report on the assassination.

Along with announcement of the committee's formation came a suggestion that a conspiracy may be behind the slayings of President Kennedy, his brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

PRIVATE FUNDS

The Warren Commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, concluded that no conspiracy was involved in President Kennedy's death.

Bernard Fensterwald, executive director, said "the purpose of the committee is to coordinate and step-up the efforts of individual investigators throughout the country."

It will be financed by private contributions, he said.

"With the help of a professional staff," Fensterwald said, "the committee ultimately hopes to force the federal government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided since Nov. 22, 1963" — the date of President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.

ON ASSUMPTIONS

Fensterwald is resigning as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on administrative practice and procedure.

In his statement announcing organization of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Fensterwald said the group's work would proceed on a number of assumptions.

He said these included the assumptions that a conspiracy was involved in President Kennedy's assassination and in the slaying of King in Memphis and that "there are footprints which point toward a conspiracy" in the pistol death of Sen. Kennedy in Los Angeles.

"As to a possible inter-connection between the three slayings," he added, "the most that can be said at present is that there are a number of parallels in the cases which might indicate a common modus operandi which normally would be subject to official scrutiny."

Name Garrison To Panel on Assassinations

A national committee to investigate assassinations has named New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison to its board of directors.

The formation of the committee and the selection of Garrison was announced in Washington, D.C., yesterday.

Bernard Fensterwald, executive director of the committee, said its purpose will be to coordinate and step up efforts of individual investigators throughout the country looking into slaying conspiracies.

IT WAS suggested the committee's formation came as a result of a belief that a conspiracy may have been behind the slayings of President Kennedy, his brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"With the help of a professional staff," Fensterwald said, "the committee ultimately hopes to force the federal government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided since Nov. 22, 1963"—the date of President Kennedy's assassination.

Garrison has been conducting a probe into a possible conspiracy in the death of President Kennedy for two years.

FENSTERWALD SAID "there are a number of parallels in the three national slaying cases which might indicate a common modus operandi which normally would be subject to official scrutiny."

The Warren Commission has concluded that no conspiracy was involved in President Kennedy's death.

Garrison's New Orleans conspiracy trial against Clay Shaw is set for Jan. 21.

The Times-Picayune

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...ey will orbit the earth twice before hurtling moonward.

Shaw Lawyer Foresees No Further Trial Delays

LA., U.S. GROUPS ...AY

Reports Pleadings Won't Alter Jan. 21 Date

The trial of Clay L. Shaw on a charge of conspiracy to murder President Kennedy will not be further delayed by legal pleadings, one of Shaw's lawyers said Friday.

F. Irvin Dymond said he plans to file more pleadings before Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr., but they will not set the trial back beyond the Jan. 21 date set by District Attorney Jim Garrison.

Garrison set the date after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider an appeal of a lower court ruling against Shaw.

Dymond would not reveal what motions he intends to file, but said, "They will have no effect on the trial date."

DEFENSE SAID READY

Dymond said the defense is "ready to go" and will seek no further delay.

Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd said he will lay down security regulations for the trial after the beginning of the year.

Neither the defense nor the state has subpenaed any witnesses. Garrison reportedly will have his witnesses stand by for call, but will not place them under subpena.

Garrison's office arrested Shaw on March 1, 1967. He was booked with conspiring to murder the President. At a preliminary hearing, former Baton Rouge insuranceman Perry Russo testified he heard Shaw plotting with Lee Harvey Oswald and others in September, 1963. Shaw was later indicted.

SHOT IN DALLAS

President Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

In addition to Dymond, attorneys Edward Wegmann and William Wegmann will defend Shaw.